

COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS  
APRIL 20, 2004  
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

The Board convened in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, 6th Floor, Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver, Washington. Commissioners Stanton, Pridemore, and Morris, Chair, present.

PROCLAMATION

Commissioner Morris read a proclamation announcing the week of April 18, 2004 National Volunteer Week in Clark County, Washington.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Commissioners conducted the Flag Salute.

BID AWARD CRP 392922

Reconvened a public hearing for Bid Award CRP 392922 – Highway 99/NE 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue Realignment (continued from April 13, 2004). Mike Westerman, General Services, read a memo recommending that Bid CRP 392922 be awarded to the lowest bidder.

*Pridemore* questioned the difference in cost between the Engineer's estimate and the bid award.

*Westerman* explained that staff hadn't calculated the cost of steel, which has been steadily increasing over the past several years.

*Pridemore* indicated that \$2 million dollars was a big difference.

*Pete Capell*, Director of Public Works, stated that a significant increase in the cost of steel, as well as the complexity of the project, were the primary factors in causing the bid costs to be considerably higher. He further explained.

There being no public comment, **MOVED** by Stanton to award Bid CRP 392922 to Cascade Bridge LLC of Vancouver, Washington in the total bid amount of \$9,694,910.57, including Washington State sales tax, and to grant authority to the County Administrator to sign all bid-related contracts. Commissioners Morris, Stanton, and Pridemore voted aye. Motion carried. (See Tape 89)

BID AWARD CRP 311522

Reconvened a public hearing for Bid Award CRP 311522 – NE 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue II. Mike Westerman, General Services, read a memo recommending that Bid CRP 311522 be awarded

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to the lowest bidder. There being no public comment, **MOVED** by Pridemore to award Bid CRP 311522 to Tapani Underground, Inc. of Battle Ground, Washington in the total bid amount of \$2,087,762.54, including Washington State sales tax, and to grant authority to the County Administrator to sign all bid-related contracts. Commissioners Morris, Stanton, and Pridemore voted aye. Motion carried. (See Tape 89)

PUBLIC COMMENT

*Curtis Achziger*, NE Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association, commented on Consent Agenda item 6. Mr. Achziger noted that he would've liked to have seen more information in the agenda's description of item 6. He said the neighborhood association did applaud staff for choosing the J.D. White Company for the contract. Achziger stated that they would like for there to be an open discussion without any prejudice or preconceived notions. He referenced the agreement where it mentions the sale of the property, which he feels would already paint them into a corner. He asked that there not be a statement about selling the property. He said the community should come to that decision if they so desire.

*Morris* stated that it seemed fair to let people know that there was the possibility.

*Achziger* said this goes a step farther in regards to the disposition of the property as stated in the 1949 agreement, which was that if WSU was to abandon the property for six months it would be returned to the county. It didn't say anything about sharing in a sale or the sale of the property, etc.

*Pridemore* said he agreed with Mr. Achziger's point of view, but didn't read it as obligating in any way. He said his only concern with the agreement is that Clark County is taking a back seat. He indicated that there would be a lot of public process in deciding the long term future. Pridemore also stated that he wanted to see the final proposal before they agree to any kind of development or sale.

*Stanton* said that item 6 was clear to her because it reads "in the event." She said it states that if they participate jointly in the planning process, then the intent would be to share the proceeds should the property be sold.

CONSENT AGENDA

There being no public comment, **MOVED** by Pridemore to approve items 1 through 12. Commissioners Morris, Stanton, and Pridemore voted aye. Motion carried. (See Tape 89)

PUBLIC HEARING: 2004 SPEED RESOLUTION

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Held a public hearing to consider adoption of the 2004 Speed Resolution on various locations.

*Bill Wright*, Department of Public Works-Transportation, presented. He explained that this was a grouping of 19 separate speed zone requests – 11 housekeeping items in which the posted speed limits aren't backed up by resolution, and 8 items that have either been recommended by citizens or identified by staff as necessary or desirable speed reductions due to the urbanizing nature and development in the county.

*Morris* asked for clarification regarding the housekeeping items and whether they are already posted and there just isn't a resolution.

*Wright* said that was correct.

*Morris* said she didn't see a reason to go through those items.

*Stanton* agreed and suggested that they move forward with the hearing to first find out what people are concerned about and then go back and discuss those concerns.

Commissioner Morris opened public comment.

*Bonnie Caouette*, 11112 NE 199<sup>th</sup> Street, Battle Ground, commented on item #19 – NE 199<sup>th</sup> Street. Ms. Caouette noted that the speed limit had not been posted until after the Firm Foundations Christian School had started. She said she was perplexed as to why a 50 MPH speed limit would be posted right before a school. She suggested reducing the speed limit to 35 MPH versus the proposed suggestion of 45 MPH, as she didn't see how 5 MPH would have much of an impact. She further explained. Caouette referenced Maple Grove (school), which has a flashing sign in the 20 MPH school zone.

*Wright* said that unfortunately people like to speed and if they lower the speed to 35 or 40 MPH, they would still not see a considerable decrease in the speed. They would have a speed limit sign that is largely disregarded. *Wright* said they felt 45 MPH was a good compromise.

*Morris* asked if that area was on the edge of the Battle Ground urban growth boundary on the north.

*Wright* said he couldn't provide any background regarding that.

*Morris* said that Caouette raised a good point. She said that people tend to think that the street they live on is residential and because more residences come in all the time, it remains a residential street; however, it is an arterial.

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*Caouette* said she understood that it is a main thoroughfare. She disagreed with staff's explanation regarding drivers not reducing their speed. She said she thought people would slow down with proper signage such as a "Reduced Speed Limit Ahead" sign posted east of the intersection to warn of a change in speed. *Caouette* further explained and provided an example of that kind of signage on 112<sup>th</sup>.

*Wright* suggested that if they proceed with the 45 MPH posting, they can re-evaluate it in a few months. He said there have been studies done nationally, as well as locally, which indicate that posting speed limits has very little effect on a driver's speed.

*Stanton* commented that she didn't believe posting the speed limit would be effective unless there is also enforcement, which has been the difficulty all along.

*Rachel Lowe*, 20106 NE 112<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Battle Ground, strongly encouraged the Commissioners to lower the speed limit to 35 MPH. Ms. Lowe stated that she has witnessed two pedestrian accidents on the road. She said that because of the growth in population, there are a lot more pedestrians, as well as two C-Tran bus stops on 112<sup>th</sup> Avenue, which has resulted in more people standing on the side of the road with cars driving past at 50 MPH. She added that there is also a noise issue.

*John Lowe*, 20106 NE 112<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Battle Ground, stated that he would like to see the speed limit lowered to 35 MPH. He explained that drivers are "speeding up to slow down" because of the change in the speed limit from 50 MPH to 35 MPH following the stop sign. He also stated that there's an issue with noise.

*Stanton* said that according to the staff report, the distance is just 2,000 feet – not a great distance.

*Tim Padhora*, 16908 NE 159<sup>th</sup>, stated that he owns 300 feet of frontage, as referenced on item #10 on the staff report, and 400 feet of frontage, as referenced on item #15. Mr. Padhora expressed support in reducing the speed limit in both sections. However, he said the motion may not go far enough in mitigating the adverse impact to pedestrians, given that there is now a high school there. He said he would like for the county to take a look at whether it really would go far enough. He suggested that a formal crosswalk would force drivers to consider the students rather than just barging on through.

Public testimony was closed and the matter returned to the board.

*Pridemore* said he felt the proposed speed limit changes were good although he would be willing to support a lowering of the speed on 199<sup>th</sup> Street as indicated in the public testimony. He said he didn't mind the 35 MPH, but perhaps there could be a compromise to 40 MPH.

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*Morris* asked what the consistency is along that street, and also what the speed limit is for the remainder of westbound 199<sup>th</sup>.

*Gene Berreth*, Department of Public Works, responded that the speed zoning on 199<sup>th</sup> Street going all the way west to 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue is 40 MPH – to the west of that where the terrain is very hilly – and it has been that speed for a number of years. He said if you go east of that, it's currently 50 MPH all the way to 112<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

*Morris* asked how long a stretch it is.

*Berreth* said its three miles. He said the section between 112<sup>th</sup> and SR-503 was changed approximately two years ago from 50 MPH to 40 MPH. The section just east of that was changed to 40 MPH a year or two prior.

*Morris* asked about lowering that section to 40 MPH instead of 45 MPH – would they be consistent with the 40 MPH from SR-503 to the west?

*Berreth* said yes, it would actually go all the way to the east Battle Ground city limits.

*Morris* asked about the range of speeds for arterials.

*Wright* responded that depending on the condition of the roadway, the speeds for rural arterials is usually 40-50 MPH, but not over 50 MPH.

*Morris* said she thought it was reasonable to have the speed limit be consistent from east to west and she was fine going to 40 MPH. She asked if there was a reason they shouldn't.

*Wright* reiterated that it would no doubt require enforcement.

*Stanton* inquired about posting the change.

*Wright* said they put in "traffic revision" signs, as well as orange flags, to alert people.

**MOVED** by Pridemore to approve Resolution 2004-04-13, with the additional reduction of the speed limit to 40 MPH along 199<sup>th</sup> – item #14. Commissioners Morris, Stanton, and Pridemore voted aye. Motion carried. (See Tape 89)

*The Board of County Commissioners' adjourned and convened as the Board of Health.*

PUBLIC COMMENT

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There was no public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

There being no public comment, **MOVED** by Stanton to approve consent agenda item 1.  
Members Morris, Stanton, and Pridemore voted aye. Motion carried. (See Tape 89)

*Adjourned*

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Betty Sue Morris/s/  
Betty Sue Morris, Chair

Judie Stanton, Commissioner

Craig A. Pridemore/s/  
Craig A. Pridemore, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Louise Richards/s/  
Clerk of the Board

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